

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BUJUMB 00396 051013Z

17

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 SY-05 SCCT-01 USSS-00

BIB-01 SCS-03 SCA-01 /069 W
----- 056930

O P 050945Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4858

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY NACROBI PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUJUMBURA 0396

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: CASC (HUNTER, SMITH)

SUBJECT: KIDNAPPED STUDENTS: JUNE 05 MEETING WITH VAGNI

1. FATHER VAGNI MET WITH STEINER AND MACFARLANE AT EMBASSY MORNING OF JUNE 05. HE REAFFIRMED HIS STRONG DESIRE TO BE OF ASSISTANCE AND OBVIOUSLY IS PREPARED TO MAKE HIS SCHEDULE CONFORM TO REQUIREMENTS OF INTERMEDIARY ROLE WHEN AND IF LATTER RECEIVES GOZ APPROVAL. WE BRIEFED HIM IN GENERAL TERMS RE CURRENT SITUATION AND INDICATED WE ARE REASONABLY HOPEFUL THAT THERE WILL BE FURTHER SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS IN NEXT FEW DAYS.

2. VAGNI INFORMED US THAT FATHER PIETRO J(WHO IN FACT IS AWARE IN GENERAL TERMS OF POTENTIAL DIOCESE INVOLVEMENT AS INTERMEDCARY LEFT ON JUNE 04 ON REGULAR MISSION BUSINESS. PIETRO LEFT WITH FIRM UNDERSTANDING THAT THIS POSSIBILITY WAS TO BE DISCUSSED WITH NO ONE IN COURSE OF HIS TRAVELS.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BUJUMB 00396 051013Z

HOWEVER, WHEN PIETRO RETURNS LATE JUNE 05 OR MORNING OF

JUNE 06, HE SHOULD
HAVE BETTER PICTURE OF WHAT IS BEING SAID
IN THAT AREA ABOUT KIDNAP SITUATION.

3. VAGNI STATES CATEGORICALLY THAT NEWS OF KIDNAPPING IS CURRENTLY NO 1 TOPIC OF DISCUSSION IN UVURA AREA AND, HE GUESSES, ALL ALONG ZAIRE SIDE OF LAKE. THIS IS DUE IN LARGE PART, HE BELIEVES, TO VERY SUBSTANTIAL PUBLICITY THAT HAS BEEN GIVEN TO KIDNAPPING AND SUBSEQUENTLY TO STEINER'S ARRIVAL IN BUJUMBURA BY VOICE OF AMERICA, RADIO VOICE OF GOSPEL AND RADIO TANZANIA. HE IS NOT AWARE OF ANY RADIO AIR BROADCASTS WHICH HAVE MENTIONED TOPIC. HIS COMMENTS INDICATED COA FRENCH SERVICE HAS BEEN PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT IN SPREADING WORD ABOUT STEINER'S PRESENCE BUT ALSO IS OF VIEW THAT VOA COVERAGE WOULD BE MORE HELPFUL AS MEANS OF PROMOTING INITIAL CONTACT WERE STEINER'S ROLE, AND PARTICULARLY FACT THAT HE IS DESIGNATED REPRESENTATIVE OF FAMILIES OF CAPTURED STUDENTS, SPELLED OUT MORE CLEARLY.

4. IN ANY EVENT, VAGNI CONVINCED THAT PRP OR THEIR REPRESENTATIVES WILL HAVE NO REAL DIFFICULTY IN MAKING CONTACT WITH STEINER WHEN THEY CHOOSE. THERE ARE QUOTE HUNDREDS UNQUOTE OF ZAIRIANS IN BUJUMBURA'S AFRICAN QUARTERS, MANY OF WHO HAVE LOYALTIES TO OR ARE IN CONTACT WITH VARIOUS DISSIDENT ELEMENTS.

5. IT WAS ARRANGED THAT VAGNI WOULD MEET US AGAIN AT EMBASSY MORNING OF JUNE 07, AND, IF EVENTS WARRANTED, MACFARLANE AND STEINER WOULD VISIT HIM AT UVIRA AFTERNOON OF JUNE 08.
MARK

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: KIDNAPPING, ARBITRATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 JUN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: buchant0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BUJUMB00396
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750196-0791
From: BUJUMBURA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750675/aaaacqje.tel
Line Count: 93
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: buchant0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16 APR 2003 by ElyME>; APPROVED <09 DEC 2003 by buchant0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: KIDNAPPED STUDENTS: JUNE 05 MEETING WITH VAGNI
TAGS: CASC, (SMUTS, BARBARA), (SMITH, KENNETH STEVE), (HUNTER, CARRIE)
To: STATE KINSHASA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006